[US Air Force Statement]
[Released Dec. 23, 2008]

Transformational Satellite Communications (TSAT) Program Re-Structure

Washington—The United States Air Force announced today it will close the existing Transformational Satellite Communications (TSAT) program solicitation without awarding a contract. The Air Force plans to release a new draft Request for Proposal (RFP) this week for the first increment of a restructured TSAT program that ensures a clear and affordable path to meeting joint users' needs for satellite communication services.

The Air Force has worked closely with the other services, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff and the Combatant Commands to assess the Department of Defense's protected and wideband communication needs in light of force structure and schedule changes to supported programs. The TSAT program restructure complies with recent direction from the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) and the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) and balances affordability, technology maturity, and program complexity to meet required demand.

The initial increment of TSAT will consist of five Block 10 satellites and associated ground control systems with a first launch capability by 2019. The capabilities solicited in the RFP include Internet Protocol routing for network management and new means to communicate with deployed forces on-the-move. Overall protected communications throughput of TSAT Block 10 will provide at least a factor of five growth over AEHF capacity. Future increments are expected to incorporate laser and Ka-band Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance communications support.

The TSAT program will provide worldwide, secure satellite communications to U.S. strategic and tactical forces during all levels of conflict. It will sustain the MILSATCOM architecture by providing connectivity across the spectrum of mission areas, to include land, air and naval warfare; special operations; strategic nuclear operations; strategic defense; homeland security; theater operations; and space operations and intelligence.